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THE OPI REPORT

Office of Public Instruction
Ed Argenbright, Superintendent
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

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The Ultimate Field Trip: Teaching From Space

If the NASA space shuttle mission this month goes as planned, teachers around the country will for once be grateful that their students are glued to the boob tube. Part of the mission will be broadcast live from space, with "teachernaut" Christa McAuliffe giving the lessons.

"The Ultimate Field Trip" is one of two lessons to be broadcast January 27 on most Public Broadcasting Service stations. (Most of Montana receives KUED, PBS on cable from Salt Lake City. Check local listings for times.) The second lesson—"Where We've Been, Where We're Going, Why?"—is about space exploration and technology. Both lessons will be followed by question and answer sessions linked to McAuliffe's school in New Hampshire and to the backup teachernaut, Barbara Morgan of McCall, Idaho.

Several experiments conducted by McAuliffe will be filmed for later use in interdisciplinary lessons geared to students K-12. Lesson plans are available from NASA, PBS and the National Education Association. Information about the transmissions and lesson plans may be obtained from NEA, local PBS stations or Elementary or Secondary Programs, Public Broadcasting Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024.

Schools with a satellite dish may pick up a variety of "Mission Watch" programs. The National Diffusion Network, through Classroom Earthwatch, also will broadcast related learning activities. For information on the NDN program, contact Ron Lukenbill at OPI (1-800-332-3402).

Study Skills Workshop Slated for Spring

In early March, the Office of Public Instruction will present a special workshop for teachers, counselors and administrators on "Developing Student Study Skills."

Topics will include study time scheduling, study plans, note-taking (oral and book sources), parent involvement and classroom teaching/counseling techniques that help students develop useful study skills.

For information call Judy Birch at OPI (1-800-332-3402) or Claudia Clague, counselor at East Junior High, Butte (782-1016).

State Grants for Gifted/Talented Education

After January 6, applications for state grants for the development of gifted and talented education programs will be available from the Office of Public Instruction. The grant funds, a $100,000 legislative appropriation for the 1986-87 school year, will help school districts strengthen elementary and secondary education by supporting locally initiated programs for gifted and talented students.

Grants of a maximum of $5,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis for one year only and will require equal matching funds from the local general fund. The district match must reflect the objectives and activities of the particular grant. The term of the grants is July 1, 1986 through June 30, 1987.

Target population is any public school district, K-12 or any portion thereof, with identified gifted/talented students in areas such as creative and productive thinking ability, general intellectual ability, specific academic aptitude, leadership and visual and performing arts.

For information call Nancy Lukenbill at OPI (1-800-332-3402).

Equity Workshop Tapes

Videocassette tapes of the Title IX/Section 504 (educational equity) Coordinators Workshop in Helena last November are ready for school district use. The Office of Public Instruction will send out the tapes and workshop handouts on request. If you wish to use them for your own staff inservice, you may arrange for OPI's assistance via teleconference during the workshop.

The VHS-format tapes include: Federal and State Laws and Accreditation Standard (Tape 1); Role of Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator and Grievance Procedure, Resources (Tape 2); Questions/Answers (Tape 3); and Keynote Address and Panel (Tape 4). The tapes may be copied.

Contact Pat Christie or Karen Spranget at OPI (1-800-332-3402).

Secondary Schools to be Nominated for Honors

The U.S. Department of Education is sponsoring the first nationwide Elementary School Recognition Program, designed to honor schools for quality instruction, leadership, school-community efforts and educational excellence.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ed Argenbright will nominate four Montana schools to be considered for recognition. A national panel will then review the nominations, and some schools may be visited after the February 6 nomination deadline. State winners will be selected by the end of June.

In a similar program last year, Will James Junior High School of Billings was chosen as Montana's winner in the Secondary School Recognition Program. Principal Roy Williams welcomes questions from elementary administrators interested in the recognition program (656-1714).

For more information, call Claudette Morton at OPI (1-800-332-3402).

The Council for American Private Education will simultaneously conduct a program to select private elementary schools for recognition.

Local TV Program Spotlights Teen Issues

Step-by-Step, a docu-drama on teen issues such as drinking and driving, decision making about relationships, pressures for grades and sports and communication with parents, will air on MTN television affiliates in Montana on January 13-16, from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

The program, produced by Partners in Education, is designed to extend family education opportunities through television broadcast to a wide audience. The mini-series dramatizes "real-

life" situations about important issues, responsibilities and roles in young lives. Parents and teens are encouraged to watch the program together.

A viewer's guide, a post-episode workbook and more information are available from Partners in Education, 315 South 4th St. East, Missoula, MT 59801 (728-5516). Check local TV listings for scheduling details.

Martin Luther King Holiday

January 20 is the first official observance of our new national holiday honoring civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. Congress said in its enactment of the holiday that the day "should serve as a time for Americans to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent change espoused by Martin Luther King, Jr."

Schools are encouraged to plan activities to honor this great American. Check your school or local library for resources, or consult a booklet of guidelines, *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Living the Dream*, available from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, Suite 5182, 451 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20410.

Please note that although January 20 is a federal holiday, the Montana Legislature has not acted to make Martin Luther King's birthday a state holiday.

Math Inservice Leadership Program Deadline

Please remind your teachers that the deadline for applications for Excellence in Montana Mathematics Education (EMME), a program to train teachers to become regional leaders in mathematics inservice, is February 1. Call Dan Dolan at OPI for information (1-800-332-3402).

Dates To Remember

Jan. 14	*K. Ross Toole's Montana* telecourse begins on KUED-TV, cable from Salt Lake City University of Montana Cont. Ed. (243-2900)
Jan. 30-31	Board of Public Education Kalispell (444-6576)
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
Jan. 26-Feb. 2	Montana Week of the Arts
Jan. 29-31	MT Assoc. of Elementary School Principals Conference Lewistown (MAESP 442-2510)
Feb. 10	MT Assoc. of Secondary School Principals Mid-Winter Workshop Lewistown (MASSP 442-2510)

Missing Children Information

The following is the State Department of Justice's most current list of missing Montana children and teenagers (17 years and under). For details on the Missing Children Program, call Bill Erwin, Department of Justice, Helena (444-3625).

NAME	RACE	SEX	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE	HAIR	EYE	CITY
Marshall, Nyleen K.	W	F	3'2"	29	091878	7	BRO	BLU	Jefferson Co. SO
Strutzel, Michael J.	W	M	3'0"	30	120481	4	BLN	BLU	Butte/Silver Bow

PD = Police Department
SO = Sheriff's Office

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Toll free education hot line
1-800-332-3402